



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

October 2004

News and Information for Families of individuals at Muscatatuck SDC during the transition to community-based services.



The Road Home for Daniel Walke

Edith Walke once winced at the thought of her adult son moving out of Muscatatuck State Developmental Center. Now she wonders why she ever worried about the transition.

Edith's older son, Daniel, 43, was born severely mentally handicapped. He lived at home with Edith and her husband, Clifford, until August 1993, when his aging parents felt they were no longer able to provide the best care for him.

"He was nervous about going to live at Muscatatuck," Edith said. "It's 20 miles away from our home in Greensburg, so we only saw him on weekends. He loved his visits home. Whenever we came and got him, it was always hard for him to go back."

In January, he didn't have to. Daniel moved into a small ranch-style home in a quiet neighborhood less than two miles from his parents' house.

"We're really happy that we made this decision, we're just lucky, we've a good case manager, and a good behavior clinician."

The Walkes didn't always have happy

times. Daniel "acted out" during his last few months at home and had behavioral problems regularly while at Muscatatuck. With news that the Center was closing and that residents would have to seek community housing becoming more evident, Edith feared Daniel's behavior would worsen.

"We were reluctant to do this," she said. We felt like we were making a mistake. But then everything started falling into place and I felt like we'd better do this."

A family friend owns the house Daniel now calls home. One of his longtime caregivers from Muscatatuck, Tim Wright, transitioned with Daniel and stays with him during the day.

Daniel enjoys helping to set the dinner table and looks forward to trips to the grocery store or shopping mall. Daniel also loves his regular trips to mom and dad's house for lunch.

"This is a different, more personal experience for him," Edith said. "Daniel's behavior pattern has changed immensely. He's more settled down and has fewer behavioral problems. He just seems happier and that makes us feel good."



The road home leads to happiness.



Information to Keep in Mind

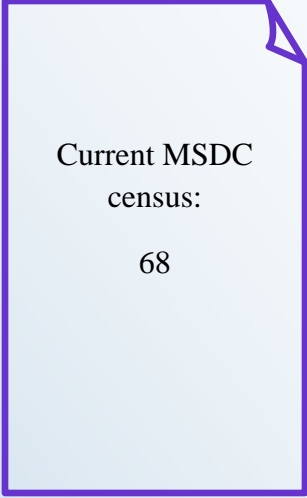
Indiana Protection & Advocacy Services:
317-722-5555 or
1-800-622-4845

Div. of Disability, Aging & Rehab. Services:
800-545-7763

Div. of Mental Health & Addiction:
800-901-1133

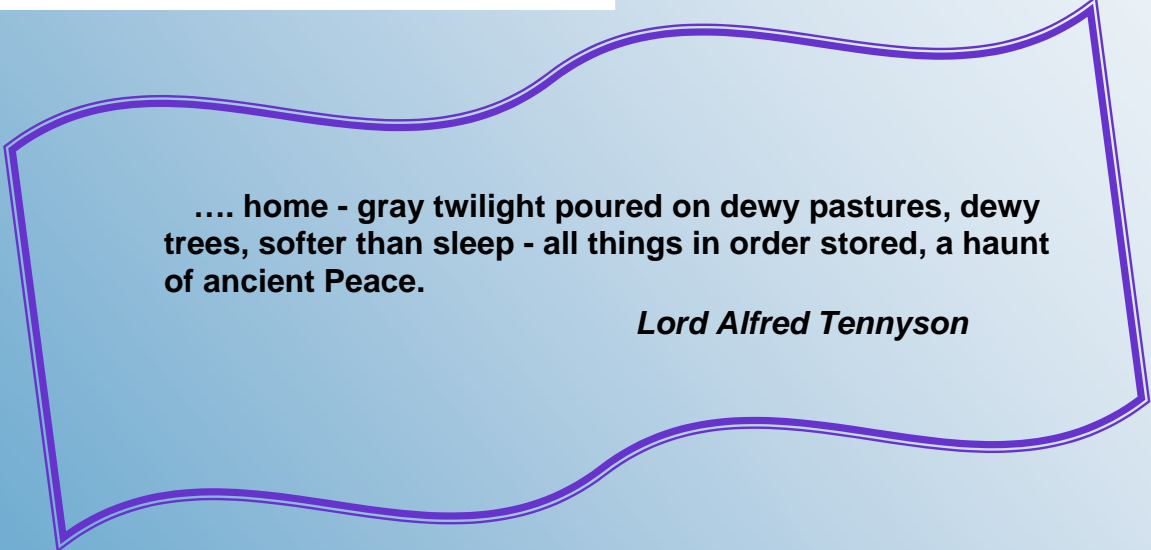
MSDC/MSH Information Hot Line:
800-903-9822

Ombudsman:
800-622-4484



Current MSDC
census:

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**.... home - gray twilight poured on dewy pastures, dewy
trees, softer than sleep - all things in order stored, a haunt
of ancient Peace.**

Lord Alfred Tennyson

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